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New NATO Role

RCAF May Change To Ground Force

By TOM GREEN
Colonist Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Canadian defence officials are studying the conversion of the RCAF squadrons with NATO to a ground support force armed with nuclear weapons.

Informants said that would be one of the main topics of discussion when Gen. Norstad, NATO commander, visits Ottawa next month.

Defence Minister Pearkes was asked about these reports yesterday. He said the future role of the RCAF overseas would be discussed with Gen. Norstad and that the matter of changing the squadrons from fighters to ground support could be one of the proposals under consideration.

The 12 RCAF squadrons abroad are armed with Sabre and CF-100 aircraft and these are becoming obsolete. The question is whether the RCAF should continue as a fighter-interceptor force, armed perhaps with more modern U.S. planes or be converted to another use.

The suggestion of a ground support force would see RCAF squadrons working in tactical support of the Canadian Army brigade in Germany.

Priests Stay

NORTH VANCOUVER (CP) — Roman Catholic Archbishop William Duke of Vancouver has "postponed indefinitely" an earlier proposal to remove the Oblate Fathers group of missionaries from North Vancouver Indian reservations.

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Eisenhower's New Plan

Gradual A-Ban Urged

AUGUSTA, Ga. (UPI) — President Eisenhower yesterday made public his detailed proposal to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev for a gradual approach to control of nuclear weapons by banning atmospheric tests up to an altitude of about 30 miles.

Eisenhower said he thought that even if the Russians continued to insist on the right to veto the on-site inspection of nuclear facilities, there still could be progress toward an initial agreement.

"Could we not," the president suggested, "put the agreement into effect in phases beginning with a prohibition of nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere?

"A simplified control system for atmospheric tests up to fifty kilometres (30 miles) could be readily derived from the Geneva experts' report and would not require the automatic on-site inspection which has created the major stumbling block in the negotiations so far."

The president urged a change in Russia's basic position because without such an alteration, "no basis for agreement is now in sight."

Eisenhower said, "I propose that we take the first and readily attainable step of an agreed suspension of nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere up to 50 kilometres while the political and technical problems associated with control of underground and outer space tests are being resolved."

Vintage Cars Test Planned

The Vintage Car Club of Canada plans a revival of last year's successful centennial vintage car endurance run over Vancouver Island highways on May 16, 17 and 18. Details of the route will be announced later.

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Senators Ask Herter To Sound Out Canada

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Twelve senators Monday asked Secretary of State-designate Christian Herter to find out whether Canada is willing to help pay for paving the Alaska Highway.

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